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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT 25X1
 TOPIC Artillerie Kommando of the KVP Bereitschaft in Prora 25X1
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 REMARKS 25X1

1. In mid-July 1953, the fourth company of each of the three battalions of the artillery Kommando of the KVP Bereitschaft in Prora was transferred to a newly activated unit in Gloewen. Discharges in July resulted in a considerable decrease in strength of the individual companies. On 25 July, the Kommando had the following organization and strength:

	Officers	NCOs	EM
Headquarters	15		
Fuehrungskompanie	6	9	38
Motor transport company	8	50	70
Headquarters company	5	30	15
Kommando school	6	2	120
1st through 3d Bns, each	32	37	153
S-4 (4th) Bn	26	29	97

After the detachment of the fourth companies, each of the 1st through 3d Bns consisted only of a headquarters, the Fuehrungskompanie and three artillery companies, with the latter organized into a headquarters; a headquarters platoon with telephone section, radio section, reconnaissance section and a section of computing personnel; and two gun platoons of two squads each. The S-4 battalion was subordinate directly to the artillery Kommando and there were no connections to the independent S-4 battalion of the Bereitschaft in Prora. The S-4 battalion consisted of a Fuehrungskompanie with 6 officers, 10 NCOs and 20 EM; a heavy mortar company with 6 officers, 9 NCOs and 38 EM and a 45-mm AT artillery company with 6 officers, 9 NCOs and 38 EM. No details were known about a third company which was allegedly to be assigned to the S-4 battalion.

2. Officers of the unit included Major Schmidt (fnu), commanding officer of the B Kommando; Senior Lieutenant Froehlich (fnu), deputy commanding officer; Captain Willi Schulze (fnu), chief of staff; and Senior Lieutenant Albrecht (fnu), commanding officer of the 1st Bn. The two Soviet advisors, a major and a captain in KVP uniform, of the 4th Co of the 1st Bn remained with the Kommando in Prora when the company moved to Gloewen. They belonged to a Soviet artillery unit stationed in a nearby installation.
3. The 1st and 2d Bns were armed with 24 x 76.2-mm field guns with muzzle brake; the 3d Bn was armed with 120 x 122-mm field howitzers; and the S-4 battalion

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was equipped with 4 x 122-mm heavy mortars and 4 model 42 AT guns of 45 mm.

4. Each company was equipped with 4 G-5 (H-6) prime movers, 1 P-1 jeep, 1 H-6 workshop truck, 1 three-ton trailer and 1 ZIS-150 supply vehicle; the battalion headquarters was equipped with 1 tank truck with a filling capacity of 3,500 liters and 1 trailer for 3,500 liters, 2 P-1 jeeps and 3 ZIS-150 supply vehicles; the Korrando headquarters was equipped with 4 BMW sedans, 1 P-1 jeep, 2 Phaetonen-Granit-27 ambulances, 5 two-axle field kitchens, 5 H-3-A supply trucks and an undetermined number of ZIS-150 vehicles for special commitment.
5. One of the subjects of tactical training was the attack which was described as follows:
 An attack is usually made in three phases, namely:
First phase. Fifteen-minute artillery concentration by all calibers.
Second phase. Artillery, tank and special units start attacking, supported by 1 units firing a rolling barrage.
Third phase. Combat by infantry, tank and special units in depth of enemy lines, with flank protection provided by artillery units.
Fourth phase. Pursuit of enemy unit if attack is successful, counter-attack if own unit is in the defense.
 Measures for defense included the improvement of positions for the so-called roving battery which, after firing about 10 rounds changes position, in order to conceal artillery emplacements.
6. The unit consisted of 5 percent of the 1936 class, 10 percent of the 1935 class, 70 percent of the 1934 class, 10 percent of the 1933 class and 5 percent of the 1932 class and older classes. Fifteen percent of the personnel came from Saxony-Anhalt, 50 percent from Saxony, 15 percent from Thuringia, 10 percent from Berlin, 5 percent from Brandenburg and 5 percent from Mecklenburg. Thirty percent were reliable Com units, 20 percent were indifferent, 45 percent were secretly opposed to the regime and 5 percent were openly hostile toward the regime.
7. On 16 June, all artillery pieces were taken from the artillery park and made ready for commitment. Soldiers on town leave and furlough were called back and the luggage was packed. No regular duty was conducted until 8 July. Discharged in July were sick soldiers and soldiers unfit for service, soldiers refusing to carry out orders and KVs who completed their three-year term of service and had not enrolled for another period. In addition, KVs who served more than three years were transferred to the vicinity of their home town upon special request.

25X1 [] Comment. The companies are believed to have been detached to the artillery regiment of the IV SS in Glogau. The quota of detachments is as high as that observed with the AAA regiment of Gruppe Nord as well as the AAA battalion of Division Irenzlau. []

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